

# DMAVA HIGHLIGHTS



AUGUST 24, 2011

## Army, Air Force participate on joint exercise: Eagle Flag

*By Staff Sgt. Armando Vasquez, 108th WG/PA*

The 108th Contingency Response Group is a rapid-deployment unit designed at the initiative of Air Force leadership to be a first-in force that will secure an airfield, establish and maintain field operations.

Tailored for a specific mission, the CRG incorporates more than 20 military specialties and it comprises of approximately a 120-person unit ready for deployment around the globe with no more than 12 hours notice.

From their inception in 2008 into a contingency response group, the 108th CRG's goal has been to become fully operational capable (FOC) certified as soon as possible. And this past week, they took another step towards that goal, as they participated in an exercise designed to strengthen their capabilities, exercise Eagle Flag 2011 at Lakehurst Naval Station, N.J.

They achieved initial operation capable status after Eagle



Flag 2010, said Senior Master Sgt. Grieg Moore, flight commander for the security forces at the 108th CRG. "Now we want to be FOC certified."

During that exercise, which was also held here at Lakehurst Naval Station, called for a play scenario in which the

108th CRG was tasked with opening an air base and provide humanitarian relief after a hurricane passed through an area on the East coast.

Changing the scenario, Eagle Flag 2011 tasked the New Jersey Air National Guard unit into a Joint Task Force Port Opening operation. Along with active duty components from Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., the 633rd Mission Support Group and the Army's 688th Rapid Port Opening Element, the JTFPO operation required these units to deploy to a fictional region somewhere of the north eastern coast of Africa and rapidly open and establish an aerial port of debarkation in the country of Nessor that

would allow for additional forces into the region. Operation Scorpion, as the fictitious operation was called, was a joint coalition effort between U.S. Armed Forces and local Nessorian military to counter terrorism operations and bring stability to the region.

For the Army's 688th RPOE, the training done during the week was critical as they were looking for certification as a JTFPO operational capable element, said Army Maj. Joe Borovicka, commanding officer of the 688th RPOE.

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## EAGLE FLAG

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“Tons of lessons learned during the exercise,” said Borovicka. “We needed to identify our strengths and weaknesses and get better for the next alert cycle.”

On the other hand, for the 108th CRG, this scenario allowed them to “be part of an exercise in which we used our own equipment and personnel,” said Lt. Col. Lawrence Klein, commander of the 108th CRG’s Global Mobil-

ity Readiness Squadron. “This Eagle Flag was a readiness exercise, next year’s Eagle Flag will be to validate as JTFPO qualified.

Pfc. Eric Duran, a cargo specialist with the 688th RPOE, said he was glad to be helping the 108th eventually achieve certification.

And the Pico Rivera, Cal., resident did his part by transporting on his HEMMET numerous pieces of cargo from



the aerial port of debarkation to a forward node.

“I’ve put in about 100 miles per day, travelling back and forth on this operation,” said Duran. “This is good training.”

The help reciprocity went both ways. When the 688th RPOE found themselves short of drivers during one of the missions, 108th CRG Capt. Joseph Schultz stepped in. Since he had prior service with the Army and was trained on the HEMMETS, Schultz quickly familiarized himself with the truck and went out on a convoy

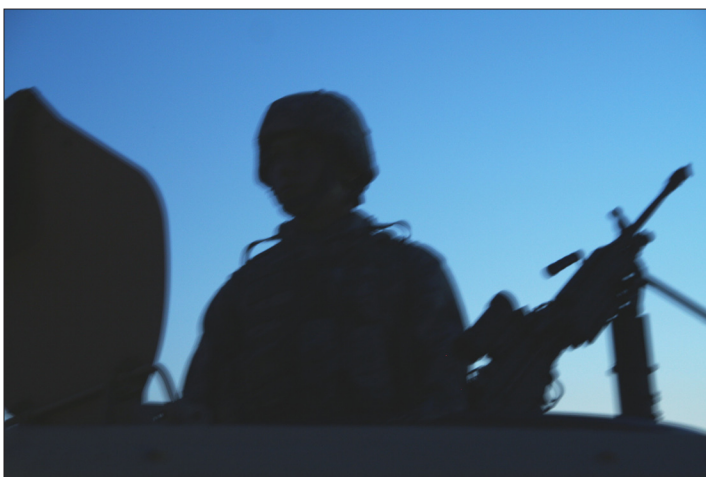
with the Army unit, thus allowing them to continue their mission without any interruption.

As both units move into the direction of eventually becoming JTFPO qualified, they understood the importance of working together.

“The 108th were excellent to work with,” said Borovicka. “I would go on alert with them any time.”

And that sentiment was echoed by Col. Robert Brazel, the 108th CRG commander.

“I hope this becomes a long lasting relationship,” said Brazel.



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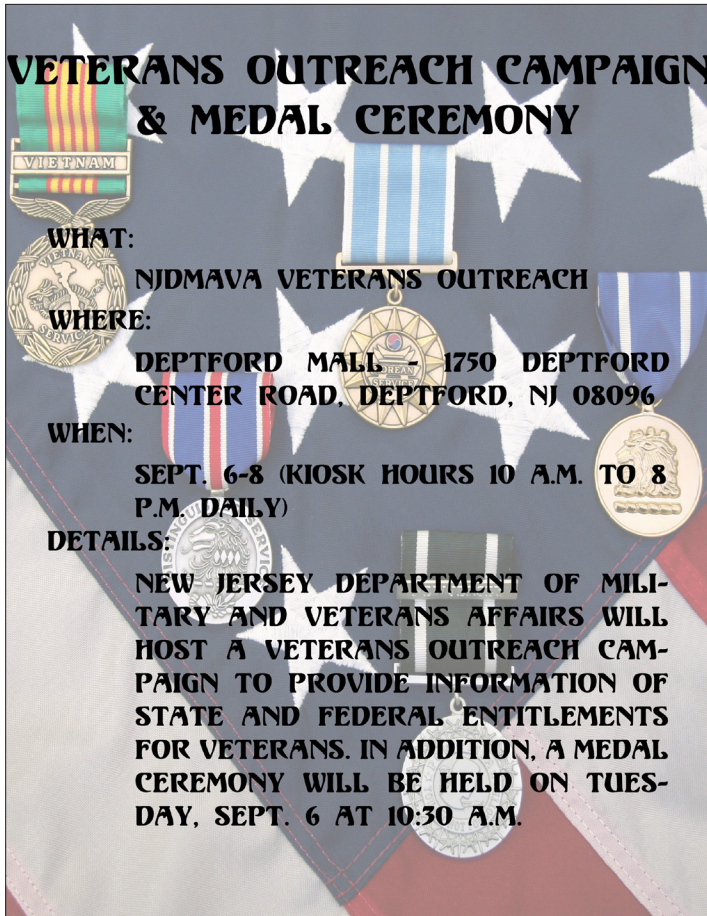
## VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN & MEDAL CEREMONY

**WHAT:** NJDMAVA VETERANS OUTREACH

**WHERE:** DEPTFORD MALL - 1750 DEPTFORD CENTER ROAD, DEPTFORD, NJ 08096

**WHEN:** SEPT. 6-8 (KIOSK HOURS 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M. DAILY)

**DETAILS:** NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS WILL HOST A VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL ENTITLEMENTS FOR VETERANS. IN ADDITION, A MEDAL CEREMONY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPT. 6 AT 10:30 A.M.



## MILITARY DAY

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Admission to Six Flags Great Adventure and Wild Safari
- 2 Hour all you can eat lunch 12 to 2 PM
- (Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken Nuggets, Spring Mix Salad, Nachos and Chips, Fix ins, Coca Cola Beverages, Ice Cream Cups (No in/out service))

**Pricing:** \$38.45 per person  
**Parking ticket:** \$14.02  
 \*\*\*Special Military Personnel Raffle at 1 PM\*\*\*

**FREE CONCERT** featuring PHIL VASSAUR and RANDY HOUSER


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## DMAVA, NJNG is now on Facebook, Twitter

Attention fans of Highlights! The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and the New Jersey National Guard have launched their official Facebook and Twitter pages.

So help us achieve our goal of expanding our Facebook fan base by 100 fans per month. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-Department-of-Military-and-Veterans-Affairs/245085018841687> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/New-Jersey-National-Guard/185017611554223> and press the  Like button and become one of our fans.

To receive notification wherever you are, follow us on Twitter @NJDMAVA and @NJNationalGuard! You'll get our news headlines, upcoming events, photos and much more.

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## Legion Riders to host Memorial Ride for veterans foundation

The American Legion Riders will host the first New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Ride on Sunday Oct. 16 to benefit the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Foundation and the Vietnam Era Museum and Education Center.

This event will take place rain or shine.

All participants should assemble at the New Jersey National Guard's headquarters at 101 Eggerts Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

The cavalcade destination will be the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial on the grounds of the PNC Bank Arts Center in Holmdel. Exit 116 off the Garden State Parkway.

Registration will be at 8 a.m., with a police-escorted departure time of 11:30 a.m.

Registration fee will be \$25 to cover expenses, barbecue lunch and donation for all participants and attendees. Children 12 and under \$10.

For more information on this event, contact the New Jersey Vietnam Veteran's Memorial at 732-335-0033 ext. 100 or visit their Website at [www.njvvmf.org](http://www.njvvmf.org).

## Veteran opportunity expo in NYC

RecruitMilitary, a top full-service military-to-civilian recruiting firm, in cooperation with the American Legion are sponsoring a veteran Opportunity Expo in New York City on Sept. 22 at the Manhattan Center.

Veteran-friendly employers, franchisors, and educational institutions will be in attendance to offer a variety of opportunities to all veterans, transitioning military personnel, and military family members.

The free event will be held at the Manhattan Center, which is located at 311 West 34th Street, New York on Thursday, Sept. 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To register for the event, please visit RecruitMilitary's candidate information Web page at <http://recruitmilitary.com/expos/386-New-York/candidates/information> or contact Dana Kenyon, marketing coordinator, at 513-683-5020.

## AUSA to host remembrance reception

The Association of the United States Army, Fort Monmouth, N.J. chapter will host an inaugural POW-MIA Remembrance Reception and general membership meeting at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel on Sept. 7 from 5-8 p.m.

Lite fare and cocktails will be served. Door prizes and raffles will be available, with funds raised to be donated to the Foundation.

Cost to the event is \$10 per person, but free to anyone signing up as a corporate or individual member.

Current members are invited to purchase multiple reservations in addition to their planned attendees.

For reservations contact Diane Carnes at 732-389-4320 or via email at [diane.carnes@macb-esi.com](mailto:diane.carnes@macb-esi.com).

For information contact Marcia Owen at 732-768-4611 or via email at [mo.starfish@yahoo.com](mailto:mo.starfish@yahoo.com).

## NY Jets offer discounted tickets to Sept 18

Attention football fans: The New York Jets are offering discounted tickets to the Sept. 18 game against the Jacksonville Jaguars at the New Meadowland Stadium at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each for this game.

Visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/000046B9FD31CF04?artistid=805987&majorcatid=10004&minorcatid=8> and in the section marked "Military Offer" enter the code: mil2011

Tickets are on a first-come-first-served basis.

## Service Academy Info Day at Rutgers

U.S. Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez would like to invite military service members and families who are interested in attending a military service academy to their Service Academy Information Day on Sept. 10, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J.

This event is open to all high school students interested in applying to a service academy as well as their parents and guidance counselors. In addition, the event will have representatives from all five service academies: U.S. Air Force Academy; U.S. Military Academy at West Point; U.S. Coast Guard Academy; U.S. Naval Academy and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

The event will be at the Douglas Campus Center, Traves Hall in Rutgers University, 100 George Street, New Brunswick.

Please RSVP by Sept. 5 at 973-645-5967. For additional information, please contact the offices of Sen. Lautenberg at 973-639-8700 or Sen. Menendez at 973-645-3030.

For directions to the event, please follow this link:

<http://maps.rutgers.edu/directions.aspx?id=110>.

## Global company looking to hire vets

Transitioning Soldiers and Airmen, a global military-friendly company is looking for military service members interested in technology, consulting and other professional careers to add to their workforce.

Accenture, a global management consulting; technology services and outsourcing company, with more than 223,000 worldwide employees serving clients in more than 120 countries, is eager to hire transitioning service members and veterans because of their strong core values and their ability to adapt their thinking and operations rapidly and continually.

To learn more and apply for open positions visit their website at [www.accenture.com/military](http://www.accenture.com/military).

In addition, please click on this link to view a poster highlighting the benefits of a career with Accenture:

<http://docs.recruitmilitary.com/pdf/Accenture%20Careers%20Poster.pdf>



# HIGHLIGHTS



Master Sgt. Christopher R. Taggart, a First Sergeant assigned to the 177th Security Forces Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey Air National Guard is named Air National Guard First Sergeant of the Year for 2011. The award was presented at the Outstanding Soldiers and Airmen of the Year banquet in Arlington Virginia. Presenting the award are (left to right) Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III, Director Air National Guard, Chief Master Sgt. Denise M. Jelinski-Hall, Senior Enlisted Leader for the National Guard Bureau, and Chief Master Sgt. Christopher E. Muncy, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the National Guard. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Marvin R. Preston, 169th FW/PA)



White House Summit diversity event Maj. Raj Shah, right, 177th Fighter Wing F-16 pilot and Capt. Iyer Srivats, 349th Air Mobility Wing C-5 pilot, were recognized at a White House summit on July 29, for executing numerous combat missions in Southwest Asia

since Sept. 11, 2001. The summit, "Impacting change in America and abroad," recognized the contributions of South Asian Americans. The event marked the first time South Asian American military heritage was honored at the White House. (U.S. Air Force photo/courtesy photo)